

REMARKS

I. Claim Objections

In the office action, the Examiner indicated that “**Claims 17-21** are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but **would be allowable in independent form** including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.” Office Action, Page 6 (emphasis added).

In the interest of furthering prosecution to finality, Applicant has—without prejudice—amended Claim 14 to include the limitation of Claims 15, 16, and 17, which is the equivalent of rewriting Claim 17 in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 17 and its dependencies, Claims 18-21 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 5, 6, and 8 have been objected to as lacking proper antecedent basis. Office Action, Page 4. In this response, Applicant has—without prejudice—cancelled Claims 5, 6, and 8. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection to Claims 5, 6, and 8 as moot.

II. Drawing Objections

With respect to Claim 22-24, the drawings are objected to as failing to “show every feature of the invention specified in the claims.” Office Action, Page 2. In this response, Applicant has—without prejudice—cancelled Claims 22-24. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection to the drawings as moot.

III. Rejection of Claims 5, 6, 7, 8, 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 5, 6, 7, 8, and 22-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being “indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.” Office Action, Page 3. In this response, Applicant has—without prejudice—cancelled Claims 5, 6, 7, 8, and 22-24. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection to Claims 5, 6, 7, 8, and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn as moot.

IV. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-7 and 13-16 have been rejected under 25 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,105,294 to Goodfellow. Office Action, Pages 4-5. In this response, Applicant has—without prejudice—cancelled Claims 1-7 and 13, 15-16. Applicant has further incorporated all of the limitations of Claim 17 into still pending Claim 14. Accordingly,

Applicant respectfully requests the rejection to Claims 1-7 and 13-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 be withdrawn as moot.

V. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 8-12 have been rejected under 25 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,105,294 to Goodfellow. Office Action, Pages 5-6. In this response, Applicant has—without prejudice—cancelled Claims 8-12. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection to Claims 8-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn as moot.

VI. Submission of Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant submits herewith an information disclosure statement in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d)(2). The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge the fee set forth in § 1.17(p) (\$180 for small entity), and any deficiencies to or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No.: 50-2638, Order No.: 114344-010100.

VII. Petition for One-Month Extension of Time

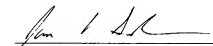
The Office Action was mailed on May 27, 2009, and set a 3 month shortened statutory period for reply to expire on August 27, 2009. Accordingly, having filed this Response before the expiration of one month from August 27, 2009, Applicant respectfully petitions for a one-month extension of time. The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge the one-month Extension of Time fee (\$65 for small entity), and any deficiencies to or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No.: 50-2638, Order No.: 114344-010100.

CONCLUSION

In view of the filing of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the objections and rejections to the claims be withdrawn and that a Notice of Allowance be issued with respect to pending Claims 14 and 18-21. In order to expedite the examination of this application, Applicants request the Examiner to contact the undersigned at (713) 374-3575 to discuss any matters that can be resolved by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

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